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Cover Photo by Jerry Leonard

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Photos by Jerry Leonard

Cross Country Skiing

A GROWING NUMBER of Iowans are discovering a new way to enjoy the beauty of a winter landscape. According to enthusiasts, a "humbling quiet" awaits the cross country skier. To them, the sport offers a pleasant contrast to the "noisy" fair weather activities. The best areas are public lands. The larger state and county parks, particularly those with diverse, wooded terrain are ideal. Three state forests, Shimek, Stephens and Yellow River are also open to cross country skiing.

In state parks, the foot trails are most compatible with cross country skiing. These marked trails are far-reaching and lead to the area's best scenery. Check with the park ranger for information and a map.

In Stephens and Yellow River State Forest, backpack trails are perfect for cross country skiing. Camping areas are marked along these routes and the District Forester in that area can provide further information about the proper use of these locations.

These areas are good bets for cross country skiing fun:

STATE PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS	MAILING ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	LOCATION-HIGHWAY
Backbone	Dundee	319-924-2527	4 Mi. S.W. Strawberry Point, Ia. 410
Beeds Lake	Hampton	515-456-2047	3 Mi. N.W. Hampton-Co. Rd.
Bellevue	Bellevue	319-872-3243	½ Mi. S. Bellevue-U.S. 52
Big Creek	Polk City	515-685-3093	2 Mi. N. Polk City-Ia. 415
Black Hawk Lake	Lake View	712-657-8712	Lake View-Ia 175
Bob White			1 Mi. W. Allerton-IA 40
Brushy Creek	Lehigh	515-359-2501	4 Mi. E. Lehigh-Co. Rd.
Dolliver Memorial	Lehigh	515-359-2539	3 Mi. N.W. Lehigh-IA 50
Echo Valley			3 Mi. S.E. West Union-IA 56
Elk Rock (Red Rock)	Otley	515-627-5434	7 Mi. N. Knoxville-IA 14
Fort Defiance	Estherville	712-362-2078	1 Mi. W. Estherville-IA 9
Geode	Danville	319-392-4601	4 Mi. S.W. Danville-Co. Rd.
George Wyth Memorial	Waterloo, Rt. 2	319-232-5505	Adjoining Cedar Falls-U.S. 20
Green Valley	Creston	515-782-5131	2½ Mi. N.W. Creston-Co. Rd.
Honey Creek (Rathbun)	Moravia, Rt. 2	515-724-3739	9½ Mi. W. 3½ Mi. S.E. Moravia-Co. Rd.
Lacey-Keosauqua	Keosauqua	319-293-3502	Adjoins Keosauqua-IA. 1
Lake Ahquabi	Indianola	515-961-7101	5½ Mi. S.W. Indianola-IA 349
Lake Anita	Anita	712-762-3564	3 Mi. S. Anita Interchange I-80
Lake Darling	Brighton	319-694-2323	3 Mi. W. Brighton-IA 78 & 1
Lake Macbride	Solon	319-644-2200	4 Mi. W. Solon-IA. 382
Lake of Three Fires	Bedford	712-523-2700	3 Mi. N.E. Bedford, Ia 49
Lake Wapello	Drakesville	515-722-3371	6 Mi. W. Drakesville-Ia. 273
Ledges	Madrid	515-432-2730	6 Mi. S. Boone-Ia 164
McIntosh Woods	Ventura	515-829-3847	¼ Mi. E. Ventura-U.S. 18
Nine Eagles	Davis City	515-442-8718	6 Mi. S.E. Davis City-Co. Rd.
Palisades-Kepler	Mount Vernon	319-895-6039	3½ Mi. W. Mt. Vernon-U.S. 30
Pammel	Winterset	515-462-2188	5 Mi. S.W. Winterset-IA. 92-162
Pikes Peak	McGregor	319-873-2341	3 Mi. S.E. McGregor-IA. 340
Pilot Knob	Forest City	515-582-4835	4 Mi. E. Forest City, Ia. 9
Pine Lake	Eldora	515-858-5832	½ Mi. N.E. Eldora-Ia 118
Prairie Rose	Harlan	712-773-2701	9 Mi. S.E. Harlan-Co. Rd.
Preparation Canyon			5 Mi. S.W. Moorhead-IA 372
Red Haw Lake	Chariton	515-774-5632	1 Mi. E. Chariton-U.S. 34
Rock Creek	Kellogg	515-236-3722	6 Mi. N.E. Kellogg-Co. Rd.
Springbrook	Guthrie Center, Rt. 1	515-747-3591	8 Mi. N.E. Guthrie Center-IA 25-384
Stone	Sioux City	712-255-4698	N.W. Sioux City-IA 12
Union Grove	Gladbrook	515-473-2556	4 Mi. S.W. Gladbrook-Co. Rd.
Viking Lake	Stanton	712-829-2235	4 Mi. S.E. Stanton-Co. Rd.
Volga River	Fayette	319-425-4161	4 Mi. N. Fayette-IA. 150
Wapsipinicon	Anamosa	319-462-2761	Adjoins Anamosa-U.S. 151
Waubonsie	Hamburg	712-382-2786	7 Mi. S.W. Sidney-IA. 239-2
Wildcat Den	Muscatine	319-263-4337	3 Mi. E. Fairport-IA. 22
STATE FORESTS			
Stephens Forest	Chariton	515-774-4559	W. Lucas, E. Chariton-U.S. 65-34
Shimek Forest	Farmington	319-878-3811	1 Mi. E. Farmington-IA. 2
Yellow River Forest	McGregor	319-586-2254	14 Mi. S.E. Waukon-IA. 76

Photo by Roger Sparks

Anti~Hunting: A WASTEFUL ISSUE

By Ed Kozicky and John Madson

The following paper was originally presented as part of a panel discussion on hunting and anit-hunting that was held by the student chapter of the Wildlife Society at Louisiana State University, April 16, 1975. Free copies are available from the Conservation Department, Winchester-Western, East Alton, Illinois 62024.

TODAY'S surge of anti-hunting sentiment is nothing new; in one form or another, it has existed in this country for a long time.

Reasons for anti-hunting feeling have varied over the years. Sporthunting was once regarded as the idle pursuit of such ne'er-do-wells as Rip Van Winkle, and the only acceptable sporthunters were the well-to-do. By the early 1930s, with game supplies at a low ebb and modern conservation just getting underway, there was widespread sentiment against hunting and it was felt that it was only a matter of time before it ceased to exist as a sport. However, the Great Depression gave people other things to think about, and also temporarily changed hunting from a sport to a necessity. It put food on the table.

As the Depression eased, World War II focused attention on matters other than hunting. But then came Korea and Vietnam — long, bloody holding actions that wearied the public of killing and provided new reasons for opposing recreational hunting.

At the same time, the period after World War II saw a shift from a rural to an urban-oriented society. Hunting is basically a rural art, and Americans were growing away from their rural traditions. How many people today have ever helped their fathers butcher hogs, cattle or chickens for family use? As we became more urbanized we abandoned homey skills and the traditions of those skills. To millions of Americans today, the rural art of hunting is as obsolete as the quilting bee.

Then came the miracle age of electronics. The outdoors could be brought into the living room through a picture tube, and Disney film productions lost little time in doing so. A vast Sunday evening audience was riveted to the Disney version of wildlife. Starting with a proven formula for success—the humanization of wildlife with such cartoon characters as Bambi—the Disney studios went on to depict Mother Nature as a kind old grandma who provides a peaceful and idyllic existence for her charges. Little mention was made of nature's stern realities—of the survival of the fittest, the constant struggle for food and cover, and the rule of fang and claw. Many viewers began to feel that wild animals live in perpetual harmony in enchanted forests, a vision of freedom, peace and beauty that was missing from their own lives. In their new-found love of wildlife—whether real or imagined—they could not bear the thought of those wild creatures being hunted or trapped.

Others, having considered the matter a little deeper, confused conservation with preservation. Since they recognize wildlife conservation as something "good", they feel that killing wildlife must surely be "bad". They have never quite understood that wildlife conservation and the modern hunter are inseparable, nor that preservation is only a minor element of conservation.

We professional game managers have been partly at fault. During the growing interest in wildlife, we gave the public little or nothing to do to benefit wildlife. We have given them no direct action programs of their own, and the wildlife-loving public has longed for direct personal action. Consider the booming industry in songbird feeders and foods during

the past ten years. But this wasn't enough. Some people, denied a positive role in wildlife conservation, began to champion a negative cause: anti-hunting. It is a natural cause to champion—spectacular, righteous, and certainly inflammatory and easily understood. These same elements were found in the early action taken by sportsmen, who attempted to increase game supplies with such obvious approaches as predator control, game farms, and indiscriminate stocking. Real progress wasn't made until emotional guesswork gave way to professional game management, and the real problem emerged: the need for adequate habitat.

Emotion is a prime ingredient in any crusade, but if real progress is to be made, common sense must prevail and lasting solutions must be based on facts, not emotion. Anti-hunters are still in the first stage, with demogogues playing on emotion and prejudice in an effort to gain a following. For example, Cleveland Amory,[1] whose most notable contribution has been advocation of a "Hunt the Hunters Hunt Club"—the main ground rule of which is not to shoot a hunter within the city limits. Can such sick humor lead to reasonable solutions of social problems? Certainly not—it only adds fuel to the emotional fires on both sides. Yet, this self-styled "conservation expert" has found an opportune time to sell books and exploit TV talk shows even though he has no real field experience of any kind, nor any background in resource management. Such a person angers the dedicated hunter, and widens the gulf of misunderstanding between the hunter and the non-hunting nature lover.

It appears to us that the greatest gap between hunter and anti-hunter exists at the lowest levels of outdoor experience, knowledge and perception. The greater the lack of real outdoor mileage and perception, the greater this gap between hunter and anti-hunter.

The gap narrows as outdoor experience and understanding of nature increases, and the deeply involved hunter and the deeply involved naturalist may merge until they are indistinguishable. As he matures, the ideal sportsman is a balanced blend of hunter, naturalist, and conservationist. He's a man with many polished outdoor skills and abilities, and whose affection and knowledge of nature are matched by his efforts to conserve it. The same can be true of the non-hunting outdoorsman. We know skilled and experienced naturalists who have never hunted, but none of these are vociferous anti-hunters.

Still, such people are likely to wonder why men hunt at all. Many hunters wonder, too.

Some of the best answers have come from the eminent Spanish philosopher, Jose Ortega y Gasset,[2] who was intrigued by hunting as a basic human pursuit that is profound as it is universal. As a philosopher, he felt that the needs of living men are shaped by a pre-history that is still urgent within them; he believed that essential human nature is inseparable from the hunting and killing of animals, and that from this comes the most advanced aspects of human behavior.

If we really try to understand our urge to hunt animals, we will find issues in favor of it. Among these, Senor Ortega y Gasset believed, is the fact that hunting is one of the pure forms of human happiness. It is a diversion in the most exact sense—a recapitulation of our racial youth, a return of fundamentals that we instinctively feel are free, basic and right. For 99 percent of our racial life we have been hunters, and the little time frame in which we now exist seeks to deny us the freedom in environment that made us what we are. No wonder we would rather hunt pheasants than shuffle papers in the office.

One of the great points in favor of hunting is that it's a classic exercise in freedom. For many men, it is the truest, most personal exercise in freedom that is available today—and we support wildlife populations not just so we will have something to kill, but in order to have a reason to hunt. As Ortega puts it: "One does not hunt in order to kill; on the contrary, one kills in order to have hunted." Put another way we do not hunt for the joy of killing, but for the joy of living.

Our critics piously tell us that it is not necessary to kill to enjoy wildlife. Of course it isn't. Genuine hunters know that as well as any man—and certainly better than most. We're frequently told that the camera is a greater challenge than the gun, and that wildlife photography is a demanding pursuit that's worth all the study and effort that you can give it. But although wildlife photography is a special end in itself, it is not hunting in the real sense, and can never be. Ortega y Gasset believed that "camera hunting" for wildlife, in its most offensive form, "represents the maximum tradition of affected piety"—and suggested that wildlife photography relates to hunting as platonic love relates to the real thing. Each has special values, but neither can be wholly substituted for the other.

There is no real substitute for hunting—even though many of us could have a full life without ever killing another animal, and find plenty to do outdoors without shooting and killing. But without hunting, the salt would go out of autumn and life would take on a passive tameness.

We are told that man is ethical only when he does not kill, and that we should curb our instincts in the cause of reason and humanity, and stop killing animals. Yet, all of us know that it is the carefully reasoned "humanizing" of our planet that is doing the most deadly damage to wildlife. Genuine hunting, done ethically, is based on giving advantage to the animal in many ways. Humanization of our natural world, on the other hand, tends to ultimately disadvantage everything that is not human. The real hunter, seeking freedom in a return to Nature as it really is, does far less damage to wildlife than the modern man who seeks to bend nature to his own ends.

The moral question of hunting or not hunting is locked in an impasse. The anti-hunter cannot understand how someone can love and kill game at the same time, nor why anyone would enjoy hunting. It is a paradox beyond his comprehension, and the hunter is rarely able to explain his actions in a lucid and rational way. Each extreme involves personal emotions that are difficult to convey to the other. But while the modern sporthunter may be unable to explain his actions to the satisfaction of the anti-hunter, should it really be necessary to do so? The prime consideration should never be whether it is morally "right" or "wrong" to kill animals, but whether or not the act of hunting jeopardizes the existence of the hunted species. And with that consideration, the act of modern sporthunting is not "wrong".

From early history, the hunter concerned himself with welfare of game, and developed certain traditions, laws and ethics that govern the taking of game. It is the hunter who willingly spends money in the form of licenses and special taxes to support game management. It was a hunter who saw the need for biological facts and principles by which to manage game—Aldo Leopold. It was a hunter who promoted ways to finance the biological research needed to manage game—"Ding" Darling.

Hunters dollars at work

Photo by Wayne Lonning

In his brilliant book Game Management,[3] Aldo Leopold wrote:

"Hunting for sport is an improvement over hunting for food, in that there has been added to the test of skill an ethical code, which the hunter formulates for himself, and must live up to without the moral support of bystanders. That the code of one hunter is more advanced that that of another is merely proof that the process of sublimation, in this as in other atavisms, is still advancing.

"The hope is sometimes expressed that all these instincts will be 'outgrown'. This attitude seems to overlook the fact that the resulting vacuum will fill up with something, and not necessarily something better. It somehow overlooks the biological basis of human nature— the difference between historical and evolutionary time scales. We can refine our manner of exercising the hunting instinct, but we shall do well to persist as a species at the end of the time it would take to outgrow it."

Since modern game management has been established, with hunting based on biological surpluses of wildlife, no game species in North America has been severely depleted by sporthunting and many species have been brought from scarcity to abundance—antelope, wild turkey, deer, elk, and others. Revenues from sporthunting have also helped preserve wildlife habitat for the benefit of not only game, but for many non-game wildlife species.

The current wave of anti-hunting emotion will eventually spend itself, only to be renewed by future zealots. It's a pity that there is always a fraction seeking to force its morality on another. If one doesn't like hunting, then one shouldn't hunt. But attempts to impose personal anti-hunting attitudes on others can only lead to bitter controversy and recrimination in which neither side really wins and wildlife is almost certain to lose. The time and effort in this conflict of hunter vs. anti-hunter would be far better spent in furthering positive conservation efforts. Our greatest objection to the anti-hunting movement does not lie in any threat to sporthunting, but in the wasted time and effort that it entails.

Wildlife's greatest problem today is not controlled hunting, but uncontrolled use of environment. With an expanding world population and our commitments to feed other nations, with our problems of balance of trade and imported energy and trends to monoculture in agriculture and forestry, what of our wildlife resources? The developers, drainers, channelizers, polluters, dam-builders, and agri-businessmen are busy, and wildlife gets many promises but few benefits. There is no shortage of problems confronting wildlife. On midwestern and southern floodplains, hardwood forests are being

Photo by Ken Formanek

sacrificed on the altar of $12 soybeans. The Cache River drainage in northeastern Arkansas is a grim example of this—and the main defender of that irreplaceable waterfowl habitat is Dr. Rex Hancock of Stuttgart, who happens to be a duck hunter. The Garrison Diversion Project in North Dakota is another example, as in the South's pine forest monoculture that has been labelled "The Third Forest". All over the United States, quality wildlife habitat is being drained, cut, tamed, stripped, and re-shaped to make more money. The need for hunter and non-hunter to work together was never more important—and the chance to do so has never been better.

One of the commonest complaints of the virulent anti-hunter is that wildlife conservation is in the grip of hunting interests and that the non-hunter has no voice in wildlife management. And here again, we are wasting our potential.

The environmental 1970s have brought the cream of American youth into colleges and universities to pursue studies in natural resources. They come with a dedication that augurs well for our country's future. The sad fact of live, however, is that most public resource agencies, universities, and private efforts are already well-staffed with resource specialists. What is needed is new money to take advantage of this dedication and academic excellence. The skilled manpower is available, and the time is ripe for important new management programs—particularly programs for nongame wildlife species.

Millions are spent each year for the management of game species, but practically nothing is spent on the "poor relations"—the non-game wildlife. These are no less beautiful nor unique than our game species, nor less worthy of concern. We must broaden wildlife conservation to include all species of wildlife, and not just the favored few. Conservation of non-game wildlife has special meaning becuase it is everyday wildlife; it includes species that are adaptable to cities and suburbs if given half a chance, and which can be enjoyed by millions who never have the chance to spend time in forest, fields and marshes.

It is not reasonable to expect hunters to support the management of both game and non-game; although they provide millions of dollars for wildlife conservation, it is hardly enough, and our national wildlife is only getting half the attention that it deserves. Non-game wildlife management is an ideal course for non-hunters who are aching to do something but do not choose to support game species that will be hunted.

There's no good reason why action can't be taken. Most game management and research techniques can apply to non-game wildlife, and there is a whole new generation of trained, dedicated wildlifers anxious to find jobs in their chosen work. What is needed, obviously, is enabling legislation and funding. In a Winchester-Western booklet "A Law for Wildlife,"[4] we have discussed various ways to fund non-game wildlife programs.

Instead of wasting our efforts on the propriety of hunting—which is something like the old theological debate over how many angels can stand on the head of a pin—we should be working together with all types of wildlife and joining forces against the despoilers of natural environments. There's no better way of putting this than by paraphrasing one of Aldo Leopold's closing comments in "Game Management"[3]:

There is, in short, a fundamental unity of purpose and method between hunters and anti-hunters. Their common task of teaching the public how to modify economic activities for conservation purposes is of infinitely greater importance, and difficulty, than their current differences of opinion over hunting. Unless and until the common task of wildlife conservation is accomplished, the question of hunting is in the long run irrelevant.

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3. **Leopold, Aldo.** 1939. Game Management. *Charles Scribner's Sons, New York 481 pp.*
4. **Conservation Dept.** 1972. A Law For Wildlife. *Winchester-Western Division, Olin, East Alton, Illinois, 20pp.*

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Photo by the Author

The Costly Results of Dutch Elm Disease

by Roger Sparks

Problems are being caused in Iowa's state parks by dead and dying trees in the aftermath of Dutch elm disease. Besides the unsightliness, trees dying of the disease characteristicly drop big branches, causing danger to the public. Iowa Conservation Commission park rangers are concerned only with those giant elms in the heavy "use" areas, while in the wilder areas less frequented by visitors, nature is allowed to take its course.

In 1974, more than 5,500 dead trees were removed from state parks (3,400 trees were replanted). Park rangers and their assistants spent 3,700 hours using chainsaws, cutting mostly smaller elms. Although rangers can remove many of the trees, a number of the trees are too large for Park's equipment, or are in areas requiring professional services. Special training and equipment are needed to effectively remove trees near power lines and buildings and some of these difficult to remove trees can cost more than $200 to fell. Other problems include trees overhanging lake or stream shorelines which are cut in winter so they can be dropped on the ice and hauled away. Of course, damage to living trees must always be held to a minimum.

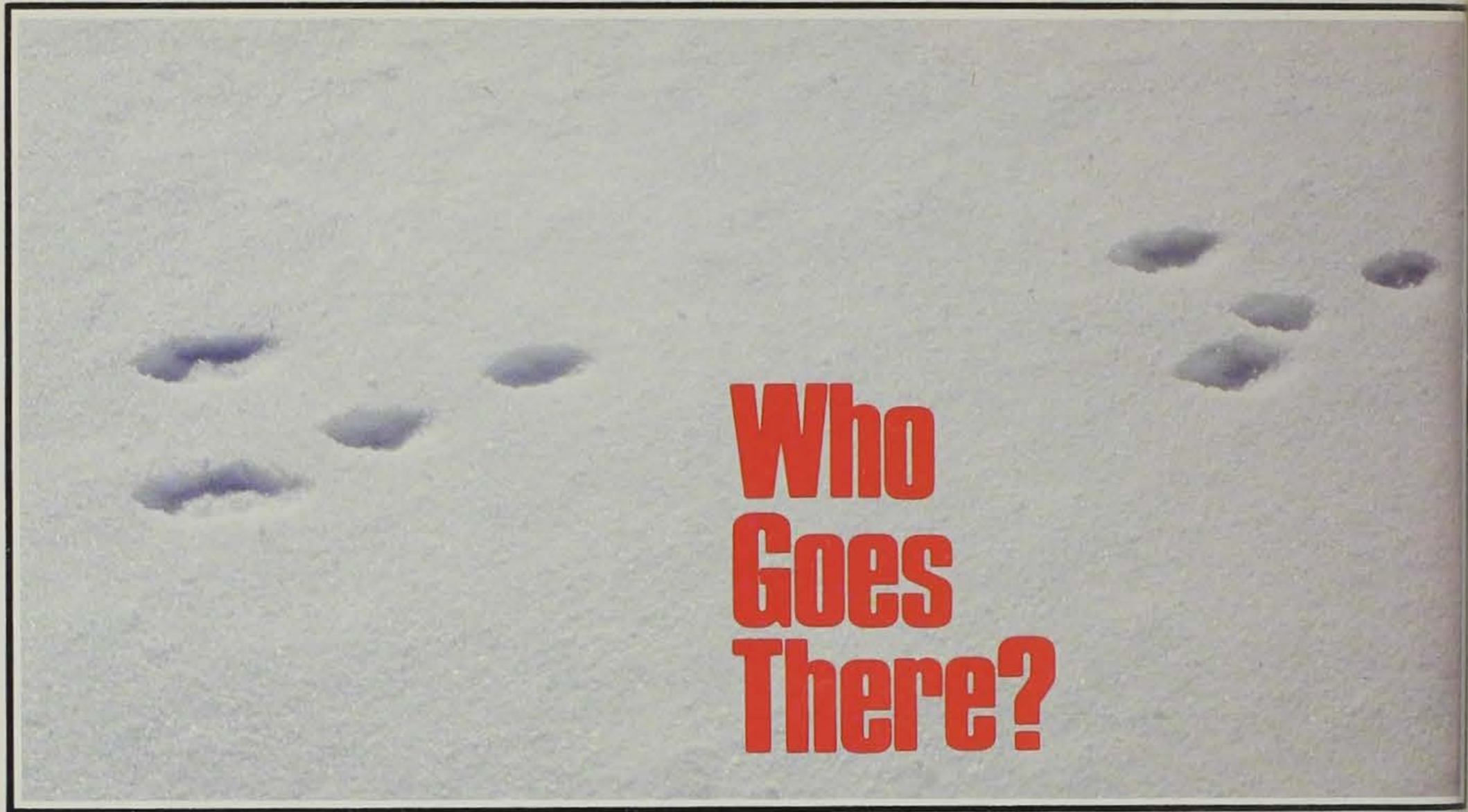
Until 1975, a capital appropriation was allocated to take care of the bare minimum number of trees in the most problem-ridden parks. Trees are removed on a bid basis with at least three contractors submitting bids to the Commission. In many cases, contractors dropped only the very largest trees. Others, of somewhat less danger to the public, still remain in the heavy use areas.

During the last legislative session, no money was appropriated for tree removal. Although the parks in the eastern part of the state are pretty well caught up on dead elm removal, those parks in western Iowa are far behind.

The disease has been costly to Iowa's state parks both in terms of money and time spent destroying its residues. To remove 200 trees, $4,000 was spent at Dolliver State Park. From Gull Point State Park, $3,300 was spent to remove 56 hugh elms. At Springbrook, $2,500 was spent; and 68 dead elms were removed from Clear Lake and McIntosh Woods State Parks for a sum of $3,100. Lake Ahquabi recently destroyed 80 dead trees at a cost of $1,800, and an estimate of $1,300 has been submitted for tree removal at Fort Defiance and Okamanpedan State Parks. Some of these figures include stump removal, while in others that expense was later incurred. Equipment to remove stumps costs about $10,000 per machine and two of them are in constant use, being transferred from park to park the year 'round.

In addition, the Commission owns one tree spade machine for transplanting purposes, which costs between $10,000 and $12,000, plus maintenance. Transplanting large trees is most desirable, but it has been impossible to keep up with the demand caused by Dutch elm disease. Seedlings from the State forest nursery and from small nurseries within the parks are used as well as seedlings purchased from private nurseries.

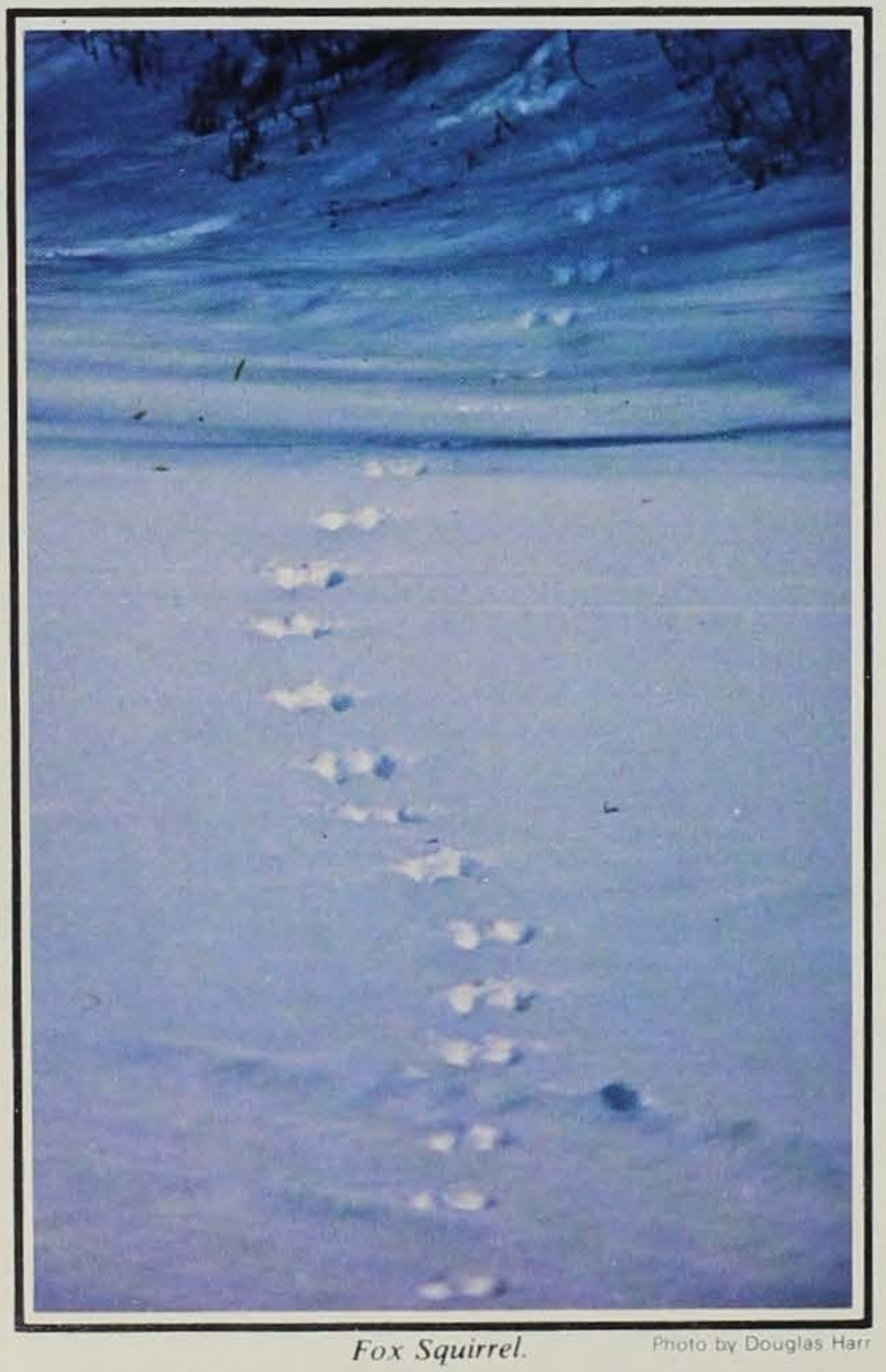
Oak wilt, another serious disease, could become a problem, but works much more slowly and doesn't wipe out an entire area in a short amount of time. Dutch elm disease has a snowballing effect--ten trees are destroyed one year, perhaps one hundred the next. In most state parks, the elms were devastated in about three to five years.



Who Goes There?

Photo by Ken Formanek

Cottontail Rabbit.



Fox Squirrel. Photo by Douglas Harr

Tracking Wildlife Adds Divers

By Douglas C. Harr
Wildlife Management Biologist

WINTER IS A TIME OF YEAR that many people believe is mostly devoid of wildlife. There are the chickadees, bluejays, other small birds and occasional squirels that frequent the backyard bird feeders, of course, but maybe they stay around all winter just because food is put out for them.

This is definitely not true. A large number of nature's creatures, particularly the mammals, remain in relatively limited areas the year 'round. They, unlike waterfowl and many birds, are not capable of moving great distances south to escape winter's rapid onslaught. These mammals, plus many birds incapable of long flights, must continue their lives regardless of climate much as man does in the part of North America.

The stories of the lives of these non-migratory creatures can be read like a book by examining their tracks in the snow. For those people looking for outdoor winter activities, or for those wishing to increase their knowledge of the wild kingdom, let me suggest tracking wildlife. Hunters and trappers are often experts at this craft, but one need not be a hunter or trapper to enjoy it. With a little practice, almost anyone can become an expert at reading nature's tales in the snow.

This intriguing hobby can be pursued in a country field or a city park. But to see the largest variety of tracks, and the most interesting life stories, the country is your best bet. Start by identifying something easy, like the readily recognized pheasant track. Follow them and you'll begin to interpret the entire life of this bird. Perhaps they'll lead into a corn stubble field. It is likely that you'll come to a spot where your pheasant was joined by several others, and now several sets of tracks continue to where a bare corncob protrudes from the snow. Here, you'll see a well-trampled area with many small peck-marks in the snow. Obviously the birds were feeding on kernels of corn. Nearby, you might discover dirt scratched up on the snow's surface, where the pheasants searched for gravel, or grit, necessary to help them digest their meals.

Pheasant.

Outdoor Wi

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Pheasant. Photo by Jerry Leonard

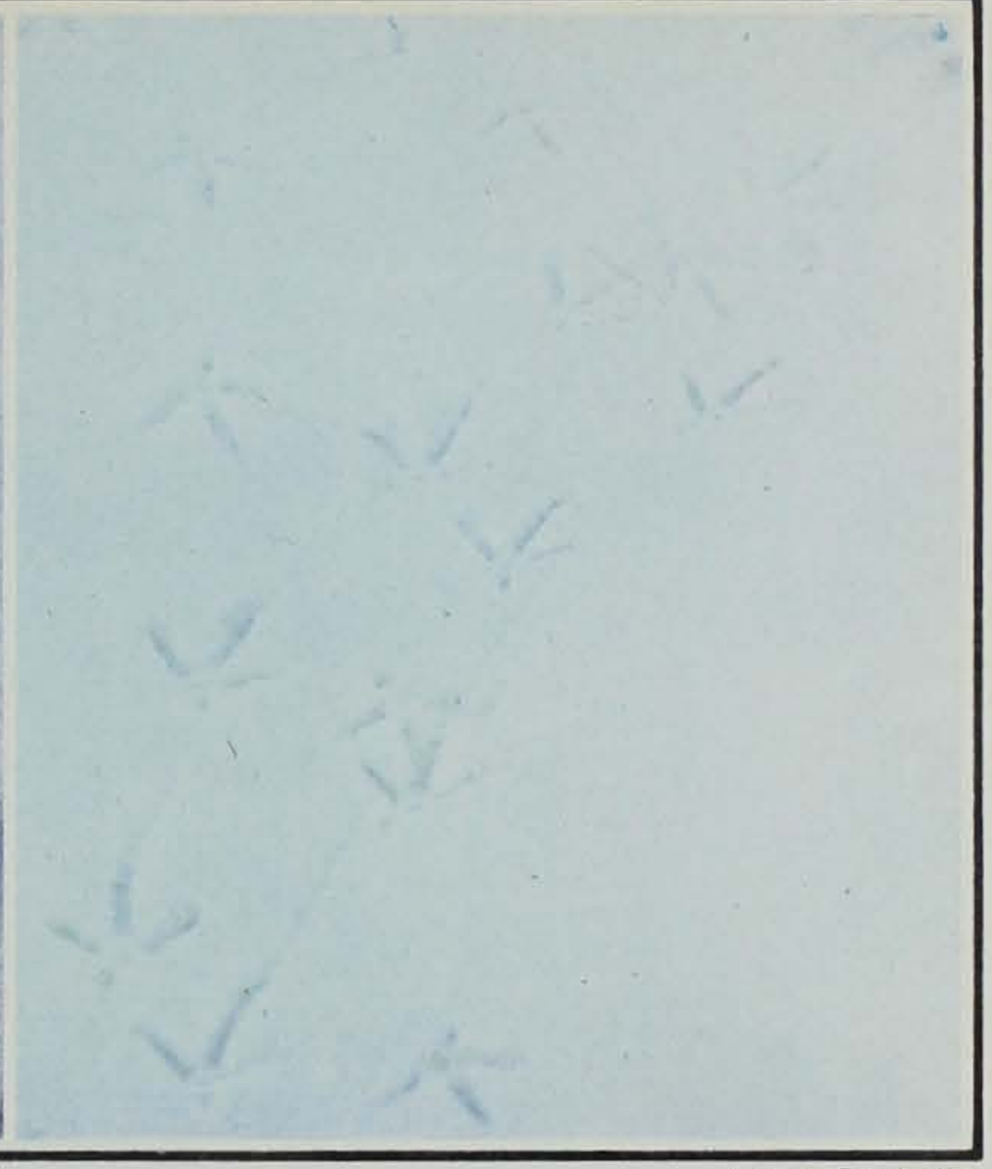


Photo by Douglas Harr

Outdoor Winter Recreation

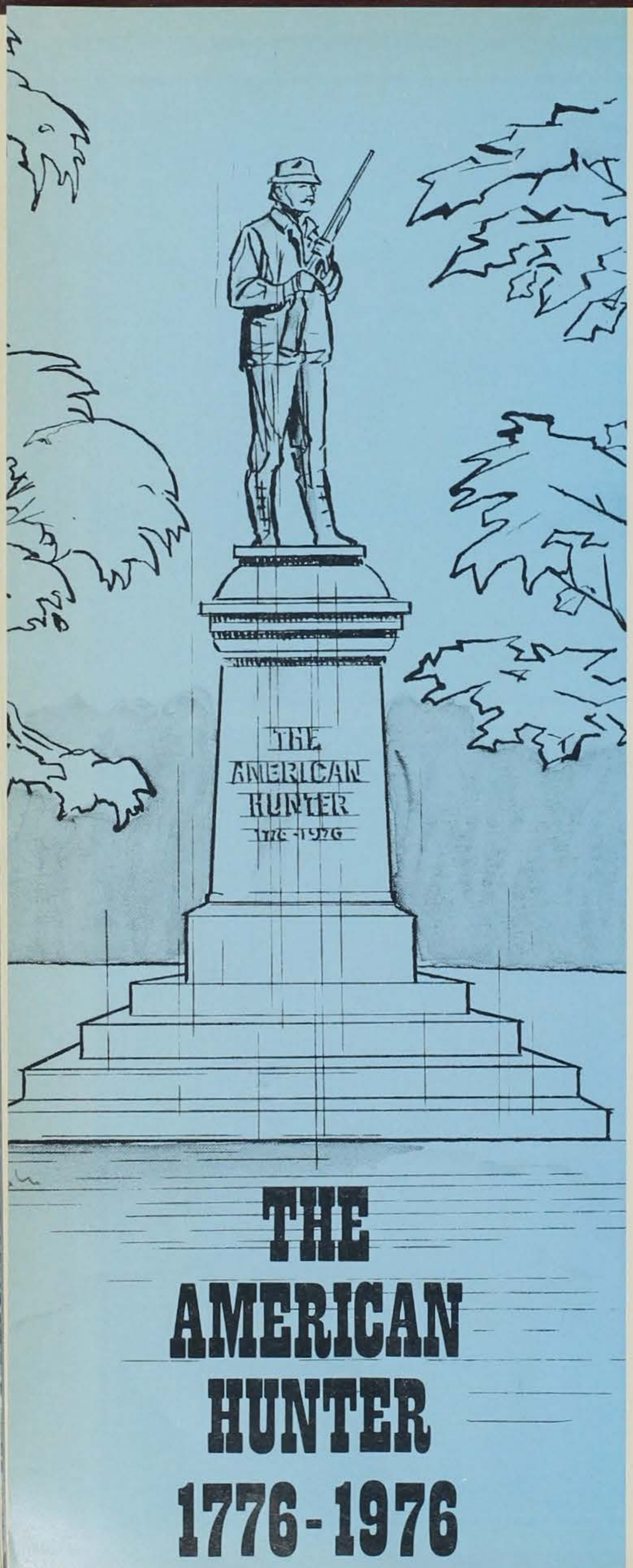
Continuing on, you follow the tracks to a point where all at once they abruptly end, the last tracks surrounded by odd-looking vibration marks in the snow. A few feet forward of this spot you notice small, dog-like tracks. You conclude that perhaps these are fox tracks and the funny vibration marks you saw were from the pheasants' launching into flight, their rapid wingbeats plummeting the snow as they burst into the air, escaping the fox. You've just completed a basic course in reading wildlife signs.

There are endless interesting things to see. Leading from the bank of a frozen stream you spot a set of waddling, palm-shaped tracks with a wavy line between the paw prints. If you've guessed it to be a muskrat, dragging its tail through the snow, chances are you're correct. In another instance you might rightly assume that a tiny, raised tunnel, not more than an inch or two in width and rambling erratically across the snow, could be the work of a white-footed mouse or a meadow vole burrowing its way around the sparkling white landscape. Or, after a mid-winter warm spell, you find little pigeon-toed tracks ambling around a wood pile or behind the chicken house looking like the prints of a miniature, if perhaps drunken, bear. The probability is that a striped skunk has ventured out from his long winter's nap, stirred by the increase in temperature.

If you've identified these properly, you're passing this course with flying colors. Eventually, you'll enter the tracker's graduate school as you learn the fine points, such as frost crystals lining the track, indicating that the track is an older one, made before the last night of clear, cold skies.

Tracking can be a most enjoyable and educational way to increase your outdoor savy; a way to provide hours of entertainment for young or old, hunter, trapper, or just plain old nature lover. For more information on tracking, check your local library or bookstore for a copy of Olaus Maurie's **A Field Guide to Animal Tracks,** one of the *Peterson Field Guide Series*. This book os one of the most authoritative ever written. Or, you might check with an Iowa Conservation Commission wildlife biologist for a free handout sheet, *Common Iowa Wildlife Tracks.*

Red Fox. Photo by Douglas Harr



THE AMERICAN HUNTER 1776-1976

By Bob Runge

SEPTEMBER 1, 1976, saw the passing of an interesting old fellow, The American Hunter. T. A. Hunter actually was around this continent long before 1776 but in these centennial times it seems a fitting place to begin his story. From his early days when there seemed no end to wild game; through his middle years of game management; to the last few years of senility, old T. A. had a pretty good life. He no doubt abused the wildlife of this continent for the first one hundred and fifty years or so, but he wasn't the only one who abused the natural resources of this nation. He was, however, among the first to catch on that this attitude just couldn't continue. So, while others were ripping down forests, draining marshes and paving prairies in the name of progress, old T. A. Hunter set up seasons and limits to protect his game. While others were unhesitatingly damming rivers and slashing the countryside for fossil fuels, T. A. was helping a new breed, the scientific game biologist, get his start in this land of opportunity.

Then, in the late 1960's, some nationwide publicity was given to a "new" word - ecology. Although old T. A. had heard of the word before, he sat by in his rocker and watched the new boys run and play with "ecology". Soon enough these boys were attracting a lot of attention and indeed they should have. Because of their efforts, a new outdoor awareness became the byword of much activity from the U.S. Government to the local 4-H club. But somehow old T. A. Hunter failed to get any credit for his efforts so long ago. He just smiled and rocked his rocking chair . . . another hunting season was about to begin.

About the same time, somewhere there in the sixties, a picture of a little baby seal turned up to pull at the heartstrings of most anybody who saw it. Little did the public know that those groups who were using the baby seal and a number of other appealing wildlife babies, were parlaying ignorance and misinformation into a profitable occupation. From all over the country the money came for the sake of saving wildlife. Dollars here, thousands there — all going to people who knew next to nothing about wildlife. T. A. Hunter sat and rocked his time away . . . another hunting season was about to begin.

Those wildlife baby savers in the meantime were gathering more money and political clout. Although the only wildlife or hunting they were familiar with came out of nature magazines, they were beginning to call themselves wildlife experts. High in their man-made cliffs they poured out the sympathy brochures and scary news releases. It was working — the money kept pouring in. Those additional dollars hired a few lawyers and enlisted more political pressure. Ignorant Americans everywhere were an easy prey. The American Hunter sat by saying nothing, doing nothing . . . another season was about to begin.

Suddenly in 1974 the final chapter had its first few pages written. A law suit was filed against the waterfowl season. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was legally required to issue an environmental impact statement. In 1975 attacks were made on the adequacy of that statement and the methods used to set the seasons. Once successfully conquered, the end of the waterfowl season would seemingly lead to a continuing battle over the rest of the hunting seasons. Senility had set in on old T. A. Hunter. He didn't even seem to care. No letters were sent to Representatives or Senators. After all these years, The American Hunter was willing to give up without a fight.

So, despite a few quick skirmishes towards the end, we laid The American Hunter to rest in 1976. On his grave is this inscription:

T. A. HUNTER
1776 - 1976

Here lies T. Hunter, a hell of a guy.
Was in his grave before he tried.
Too late found out that he had died.

HUNTER SAFETY IN IOWA

By Bob Mullen
State Conservation Officer

PHOTOS BY WENDELL SIMONSON

EACH YEAR we read in the newspaper of accidents in the home or field where firearms are involved. Each accident could easily have been prevented.

In 1974, there were 86 reported hunting related firearm accidents in Iowa. Many people might just shrug this off as one of the things that goes along with hunting, or the handling of firearms, and that accidents are something that are just going to happen. But each year more and more people are taking up the sport of hunting or target shooting and, with little knowledge of how to properly handle firearms, this can only increase the number of gun related accidents.

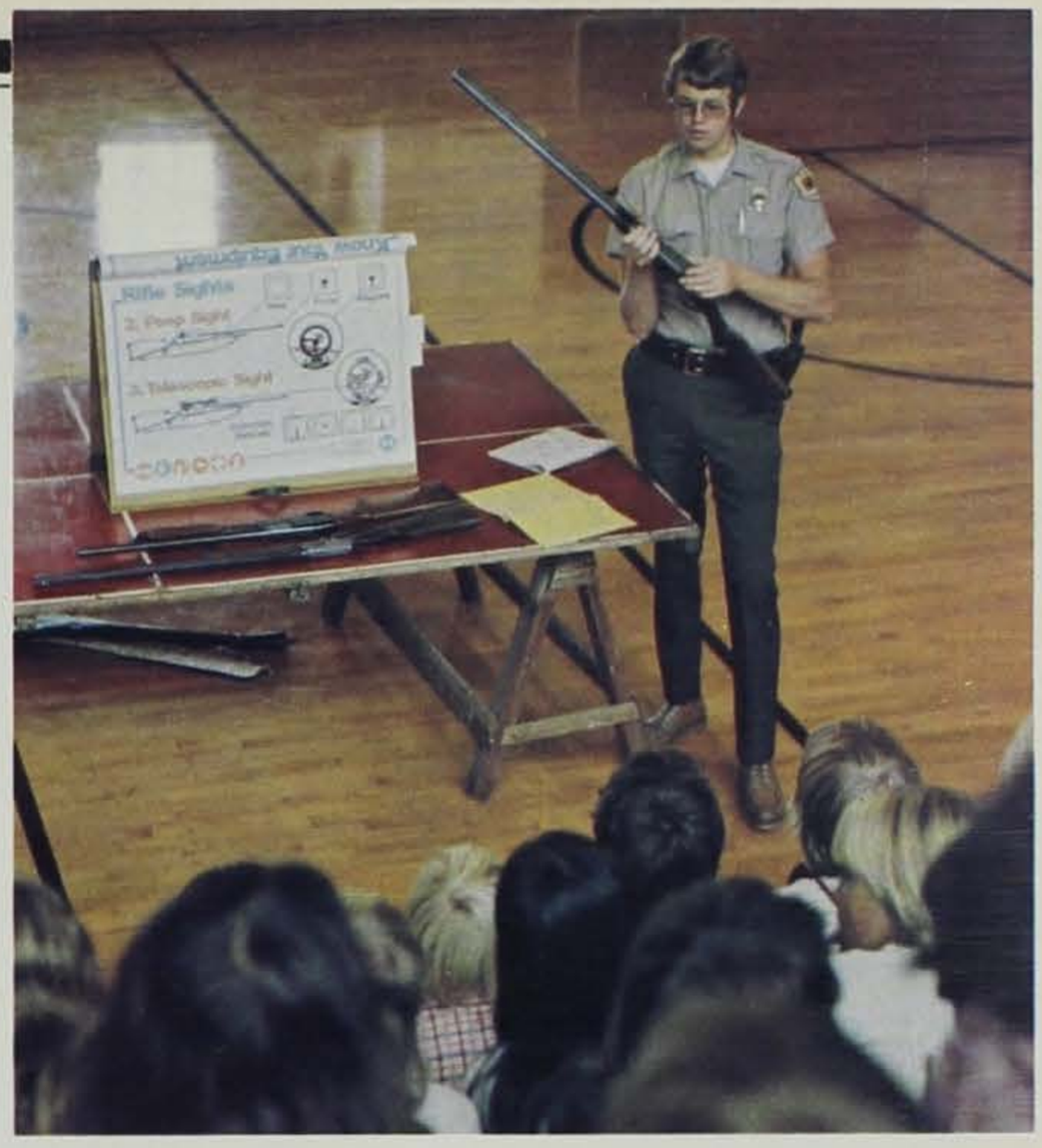
The State Conservation Commission felt that something needed to be done to cut down on accidents and that a firearms safety and education program was needed so people could more safely enjoy hunting and the use of firearms. During the fall of 1960, the National Rifle Association's Hunter Safety program was adopted and put into use by the fish and game officer's section. Since the inception of the program, 109,835 students have successfully completed the training program.

Today, we have a full time Hunter Safety Coordinator, and each fish and game officer is a qualified instructor. During 1974, the officers themselves taught, or aided in certifying 14,053 students. Many school systems have incorporated hunter safety into their educational curriculum, and have met with great success. Other organizations, such as sportsmen's clubs, youth and church organizations, city and county departments, state and federal agencies, civic clubs, private businesses, and veteran's organizations have sponsored and aided in putting on hunter safety programs. The officer's section has also certified many volunteer instructors, who give freely of their time to conduct the programs in their area.

The course's main purpose is to prevent gun accidents. During every individual's lifetime, they will come into contact with a gun—either around the home or in the sport of hunting. The course makes the student aware of the different types of rifle and shotgun actions, the basic parts of a gun, and how a gun operates. There are ten basic safety rules the student studies. These are called the "Ten Commandments of Shooting Safety." You will find them listed below. Through instruction and demonstration, the student becomes familiar with these rules and realizes that they must always be adhered to when handling any firearm. On successful completion of the six-hour course, each student receives a certificate and shoulder patch which can be worn on a hunting coat or jacket.

If every person that handles a gun would continually practice the safety rules, which are basically use of good common sense, we would not have firearm accidents. Incidently, hunting is sixteenth on the list of hazardous out of home activities according to a major insurance company. In order of their risk, they are: football; winter sports; baseball; swimming; basketball; skating; recreation in the country or at the beach; bicycling; picnicking; golf; horseback riding; boating and canoeing; gymnastics; fishing; at theaters, churches, or concerts; HUNTING.

Firearms can provide a great amount of enjoyment when used in a safe and conscientious manner. Through the state's hunter safety program we are trying to bring this about. Remember, a moment of safety will save a lifetime of grief.



Ten Commandments of Shooting Safety:

1. Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun.
2. Watch that muzzle! Carry your gun safely; keep the safety on until you are ready to shoot.
3. Unload guns when they are not in use. Take the gun down or have its action open. Guns should be carried in a case to the shooting area.
4. Be sure that the barrel is clear of obstructions, and that you have ammunition only of the proper size for the gun you carry.
5. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger; know the identifying features of the game you hunt.
6. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot; avoid horseplay.
7. Never climb a tree or fence or jump a ditch with a loaded gun; never pull a gun towards you by the muzzle.
8. Never shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or water; at target practice, be sure your backstop is adequate.
9. Store guns and ammunition separately, beyond the reach of children.
10. Avoid alcoholic beverages before or during shooting.

Third Year for Turkey Season

THE OFFICIAL DATES have been set for Iowa's third wild turkey season. Although the season will not include an area in northeast Iowa this year, the southern Iowa area has been expanded significantly. The northeast area was closed this year to facilitate the current stocking program underway in that portion of the state.

Four zones will be open this year (see map).

ZONE 1 - Bounded by Highways 14, 2, 69, and 34.

ZONE 2 - Bounded by Highways 69, 2, 63, and the Missouri border.

ZONE 3 - Bounded by a line from Bonaparte along the Des Moines River to the Missouri border then along the border to Highway 15, north on Highway 15 to Highway 2, east on Highway 2 to county road V-64, north on V-64 to county road J-40, then east to Highway 1, north on Highway 1 to Highway 16, then east to county road W-40, south on W-40 to county road J-40, then south to Bonaparte on J-40.

ZONE 4 - Bounded by a line from Bonaparte along the Des Moines River to the Mississippi River, then north along the river to Ft. Madison, then west on Highway 2 to Highway 218, north on 218 to county road J-40, then west on J-40 to Bonaparte.

There will be three separate seasons again this year from which the hunter may choose. They are:

1. April 24-28
2. April 29-May 5
3. May 6-May 16

Each Season is limited to a specific number of hunters depending upon the zone.

ZONE 1 - 100 permits each season
ZONE 2 - 50 permits each season
ZONE 3 - 50 permits each season
ZONE 4 - 125 permits each season

Hunters must apply for a specific zone and season. The license fee is $10. Applications will be accepted between January 30 and February 13, 1976. Applications received prior to or after this period and incomplete applications will not be valid. Unsuccessful applicants will receive their fees and applications back after the random computer drawing. Only Iowa residents are eligible and anyone submitting more than one application will be disqualified. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until noon each day. Only bearded turkeys may be taken. Both shotgun and bow hunting are permissible. The season limit is one turkey.

Successful turkey hunters swap tall tales at check in station.

Photo by Jerry Leonard

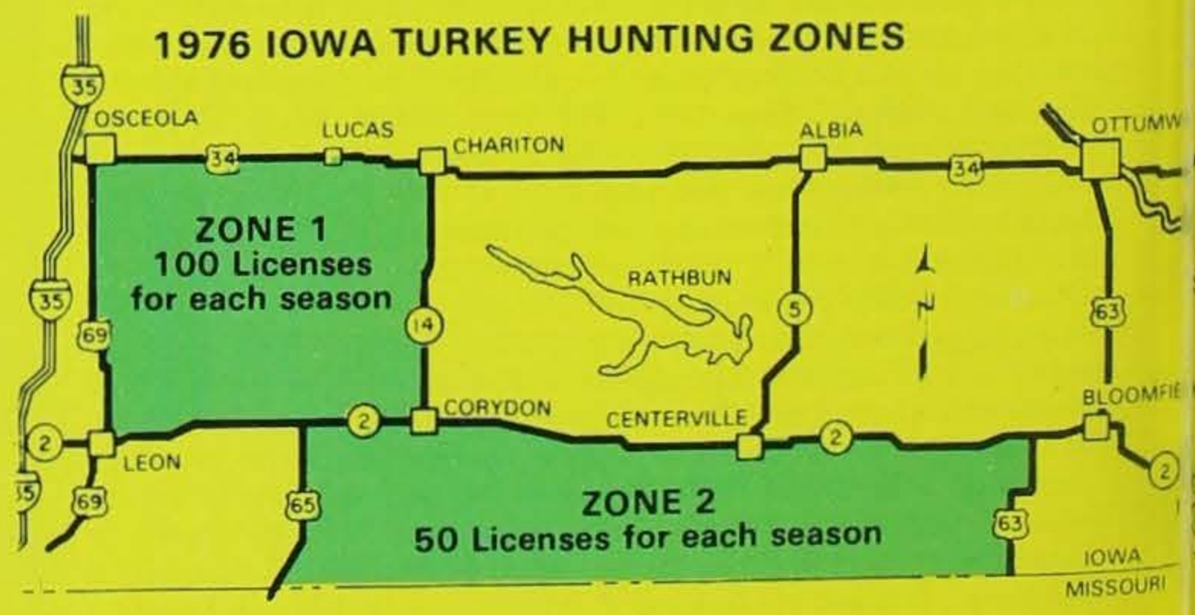
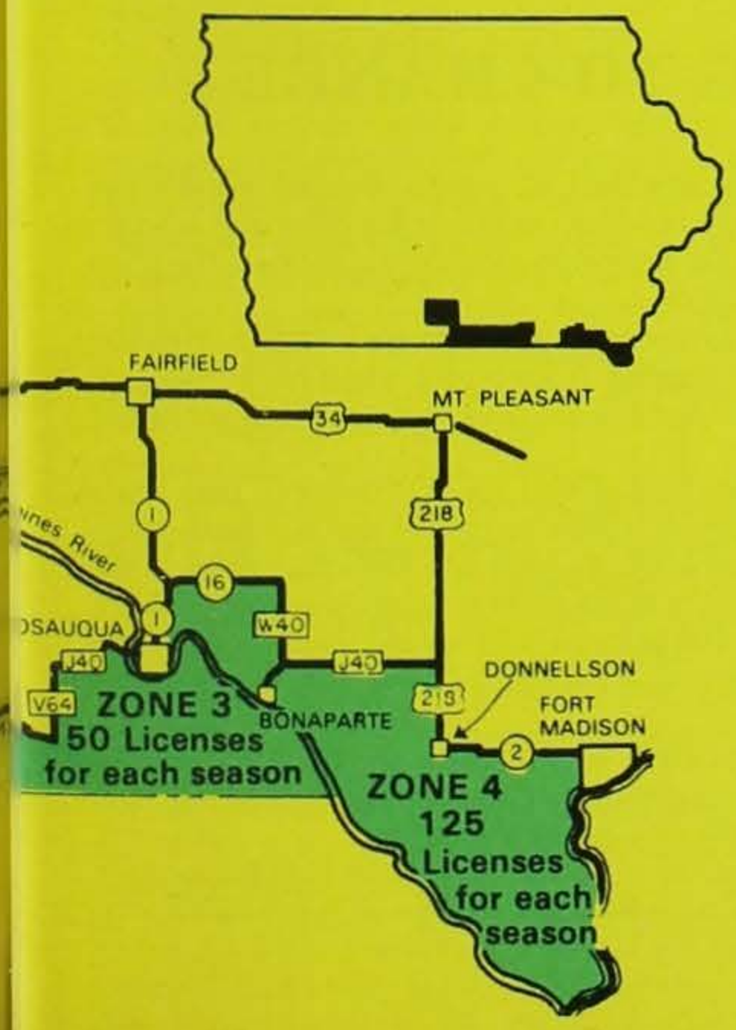


Photo by Ken Formanek



FROM THE

Warden's diary

By Rex Emerson

The Hard Luck Rabbit Hunter

THE WOODS CHANGE with each season and each season is beautiful in its own way. Most of the trees have lost their leaves and the plants on the forest floors are asleep for the winter. With a new fallen snow covering the ground and stacked high on each tree branch, glistening in the sun and a few pine trees to add a little color, who couldn't say that this is beautiful.

Today I walked through such a wood lot to check some rabbit hunters. As you walk through the snow covered trees you should be very careful not to shake the limbs that are right overhead, or you get snow down your neck. No one told me this. I just found it out for myself.

What happened next is hard to believe, but it did happen and just this way. About halfway through the timber I came across two rabbit hunters sitting on a long. When I asked them how hunting was, one of them said, *"This just ain't my day. In fact, this just ain't my year for hunting."* He continued. *"Last week I was out rabbit hunting and shot old Blue."* He spent at least five minutes telling me how he had shot his best dog. *"Yes sir, old Blue sure was a good old dog. He was chasing this here rabbit and just as he jumped over a log I shot at the rabbit that was right in line with him, etc., etc."*

After that story was told in detail, he said, *"And today I shot old Bill."* I could see two beagle dogs running around that looked pretty healthy, so I said, *"Where is old Bill?"*

He replied, *"This is old Bill right here, my huntin' partner. No sir, it just ain't my year to go huntin'!"*

Bill hadn't said a word all this time. We got his hunting coat off and I could see blood coming through his shirt sleve. A closer observation of the wounded area looked like his clothing had slowed down the velocity of the shotgun pellets and he wasn't really losing a lot of blood. We got him bundled up and took him in to the hospital. As they wheeled Bill into the operating room to start picking shot out of him, I heard his friend say once more, *"No, sir, it just ain't my year!"*

FEDERAL BOATING ACTS: ADAPTING TO CHANGE

"They're legislating the fun out of boating with all those new boating laws!"

By James E. Horan
Boating Safety Coordinator

That's a too common appraisal of Iowa's boating regulations (usually uttered by a newly ticketed violator). True, current laws do prohibit and restrict certain activities--and in most cases, for good reason--but "new"? No way!

Although many of the current regulations pertaining to navigation and product design have resulted from recent needs of recreational boating, some rules trace their history back to before the turn of the century.

In the year 1897, an act passed by Congress required that boats propelled by naptha, electricity, fluids, or gas use special signals when passing. The intent of course was to prevent collisions, which in the case of these fuels, resulted in disasterous fires and explosions. Such rules relating to the color and placement of vessel lights in addition to passing signals helped boats avoid collisions during periods of fog or at night.

These few regulations applied only to commercial vessels over 15 tons. There were not many recreational motorboats in existence then and they didn't cause much of a problem.

By 1910, non-commercial recreational crafts were beginning to ply our navigable waterways in increasing numbers. It is estimated that there were probably around 100,000 recreational motorboats afloat by then. The act of 1910 established a basic difference between commercial and recreational craft by designating length

classifications. The act also sought to further prevent collisions of vessels by expanding on the requirements for navigational lights. For the first time, life preservers were required to be on board (one for each person) and fire extinguishers were required.

In 1918, a new act required that all motorboats over 16 feet in length be numbered by the federal government.

In the Motorboat Act of 1940, the U. S. Coast Guard became directly involved in pleasure boating. This law redefined the rules for required equipment on motorboats and amended earlier laws intended to prevent collisions and accidents especially pertaining to lighting and sounding devices. Previously, the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation was using an approval system they applied to life jackets in their work with commercial boats. The Coast Guard adopted elements of this system as they became involved in aspects of engineering specifications, especially concerning lifesaving equipment, backfire flame control, and fire extinguishing equipment. The act also gave the Coast Guard the authority to administer criminal penalties for operating a boat in a reckless or negligent manner.

The bulk of the existing regulations before World War II applied primarily to motorboats. The potential of the motorboat to cause substantial injury and destruction heavily influenced debate on proposed legislation.

By 1952, there were more than four million recreational boats in use in the United States. Technological advances in design, materials, and construction methods along with development of reservoirs for flood control projects in many areas throughout the country helped further the increase in boating. The growing problems of recreational boating were becoming increasingly regional, even local, in nature. State laws, although often more stringent than federal regulations, were not always uniform between the various states. In addition, accident information necessary for good legislation was inadequate.

The Federal Boating Act of 1958 attempted to alleviate these problems. In particular, the Act required that the operator of a boat involved in a boating accident causing injury, death, or property damage must file a written accident report. Furthermore, not only was numbering required by all motorboats over 10 h.p. regardless of length, but the numbering function could be assumed by the states. The Boating Act of 1958 also promoted uniformity of boating laws between the states and provided for reciprocity relative to numbering.

During the 1960's, outdoor recreation became the "thing to do" for millions of Americans. This period saw higher individual income and more leisure time. Boating had become big business and thousands of people were employed in related aspects of product manufacturing. Over five and one-half million boats were registered by 1971. Although most of these were motorboats (some states registered sailboats as well), other boating activities such as sailing, canoeing, and duck hunting grew as well. Another change was needed to reflect the needs of changing times.

The Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 sought to clarify or expand some elements of the Boating Act of 1958, to encourage development by the states of more comprehensive boating safety programs, and to authorize establishment of national construction and performance standards. Although the older boat acts of 1958, 1940, etc., provided for regulations concerning navigation equipment, the requirements were aimed more at the boat owner and required his compliance leaving the manufacturer alone. The 1971 Boat Safety Act provided the Coast Guard with an expansion of its jurisdictional powers especially with respect to standards affecting manufacturers and not further burdening the consumer.

Boating safety programs, though fairly well developed in some states, were more often than not haphazard and/or one sided attempts in others. The federal government through the Coast Guard could now define the content or basic emphasis of a comprehensive balanced program and at the same time provide funds to those states which complied with the program requirements.

Jurisdiction applied to all boaters not just motorboats. Now the operator of any vessel involved in a boating accident was required to file an accident report.

So recreational boating has changed considerably since the early years of this century. For the most part, the regulations have been designed to directly benefit boaters through promoting boating safety. The 1971 Boat Safety Act has done the most to protect the boater. From the growth of boating safety programs to tougher standards of equipment design, boating will be better off for it all.

CLASSROOM CORNER

by Robert Rye
Administrator, Conservation Education Center

BODIES OF WATER have been used in art works, science, languages, and social studies for ages. Henry David Thoreau, a literary man, wrote as a naturalist. He described the American environment as a botanist, ornithologist and economist. In 1846 he wrote about Walden Pond in winter.

Many of the activities he carried out can also be done by us today. Ice fishing is enjoyed by many people. The fish can be used for the beauty they possess or as a survey of the various parts of a lake and its suitability for their habitation. Thoreau studied the variety of depths, bottom types, and spring locations in his pond.

Let's consider running some surveys in a pond near us — depth for instance. You will need ice on your pond which will support the number of persons in your survey group, an ice auger, a fishing line or other similar cord with a weight on it, and paper for recording your information.

Draw a sketch of your pond and set up transecting lines across some part or parts of your diagram. Drill holes through the ice at equal intervals and take a depth measurement at each hole.

By accurately placing your numbers on your sketch you can map your pond's bottom. You should find that several comparisons may be made. Does it slope the same throughout? Does the width affect its depth? Does it drop off at any particular distance from the shore?

In addition to our survey we can easily include the thickness of the ice, the temperature of water at different depths, water pollution samples, and plankton samples.

Why does ice form on the top of the water instead of the bottom of the pond? Mother Nature made one substance that *expands* once it gets below 39°F (4°C). It is water. Everything else continues to contract as it gets colder. This means water gets heavier until 39°F, then lighter below that temperature. For example, the pond's bottom temperature would be 39°F, 38°F on top of that, and at the surface 32°F, where it freezes. Once formed, the ice acts as insulation and the remaining majority of the water never freezes. This gives the animals and plants below the ice a suitably warm and wet place to live.

These and other winter activities are carried out at the Conservation Education Center. It is hoped that by doing some or all of the above experiments, you will obtain a better understanding of how lakes function in the winter.

Photo by Jerry Leonard